News Release

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For Immediate Release

TRAVELLERS FACE RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. POULTRY MATERIAL

VANCOUVER, B.C. – The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is advising travellers who enter Canada from the United States that various live birds, poultry products and by-products originating from certain states are not allowed into Canada. This includes food products such as eggs and chicken meat.

These restrictions are due to the presence of a serious foreign animal disease, called Exotic Newcastle Disease, in a number of counties in the states of California, Nevada, Arizona and Texas. Authorities there are taking extensive measures to control and eradicate the disease, and it is important to prevent it from entering Canada.

Poultry material from the affected states could be contaminated with the Newcastle Disease virus. The virus is not a serious threat to human health - it only has serious effects for birds. If the disease is introduced into Canada and contracted by poultry flocks, it could cause serious economic damage to the Canadian poultry industry.

In the American states where its presence has been confirmed, many poultry premises have been quarantined and authorities have been required to destroy millions of birds in an effort to stop the disease from spreading.

A full list of the restricted commodities is available on CFIA's website, www.inspection.gc.ca. Follow the links under "Newcastle Disease - USA" in the Hot Topics section. Travellers arriving at the border with any of these commodities can expect Canada Customs and Revenue Agency officers to stop the importation of these items, and be referred to CFIA for proper disposal. It is recommended people travelling to and from the U.S. consult this list before entering Canada.

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For more information: Canadian Food Inspection Agency

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